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THE

FINAL REPORT

OF

JOHN ROMEYN BRODHEAD,

AGENT OF THE

STATE OF NEW-YORK,

TO PROCURE AND TRANSCRIBE DOCUMENTS IN EUROPE, RELATIVE

TO THE

COLONIAL HISTORY

OF SAID STATE.

MADE TO THE GOVERNOR,
12th FEBRUARY, 1845.

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STATE OF NEW-YORK.

No. 47.

IN SENATE,

February 26, 1845.

COMMUNICATION

From the Governor, transmitting the final report of the Agent appointed "to procure and transcribe documents in Europe, relative to the Colonial History of this State."

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Albany, 21 *Feb.*, 1845.

TO THE LEGISLATURE.

Herewith I have the honor to transmit the final report of the Agent of the State, appointed in pursuance of the provisions of the act of the 2d May, 1839, "to procure and transcribe Documents in Europe, relative to the Colonial History of this State." The report presents a brief, but very clear history of the progress of the agency, of the difficulties encountered, and of the general results accomplished, and will be read with the interest belonging to the subject.

My pressing engagements have not allowed me time to make myself acquainted with the documents which the agent has secured, or with the expenditures which have been incurred, beyond the statements of the report now transmitted; and I cannot, therefore, speak of the degree of success realized from the establishment of the agency, or of the economy which has characterized the expenditure of the moneys appropriated.

It will be seen, from the closing paragraphs of the report, that the agent is in advance, to meet the expenses which have been incurred, over and above his own compensation, for the last portion of the period of his service. His account is not submitted to me, but will of course, I presume, be ready for presentation to the Legislature, whenever its action in the matter shall require it.

The schedules of documents accompanying the report, I have not found it possible to command the time even to read, although the transmission of the report has been delayed, for some days, in the hope that so much leisure might be found. Any further delay would only abridge the time which will be allowed to the Legislature to make these examinations, and to take the necessary action to bring the agency to a final close, and the accounts of the agent to a settlement and liquidation. Hence, the report, and accompanying papers, are transmitted without the information which enables me to make any recommendation, or even suggestions, as to the legislation called for, or the appropriations required.

SILAS WRIGHT.

REPORT

Of J. Romeyn Brodhead.

To His Excellency, Silas Wright,
Governor of the State of New-York.

Sir—I have now the honor to lay before you a final report of my proceedings as Agent of the State of New-York, under the act entitled "An act to appoint an agent to procure and transcribe documents in Europe relative to the Colonial History of this State," passed May 2, 1839; and of the results of my researches in the Archives of Holland, England and France.

Before, however, detailing these proceedings, it may not be out of place to refer briefly to the circumstances which led to the passage of the act of the Legislature, by which the enterprise now brought to a conclusion was sanctioned.

This agency is the result of the antiquarian spirit that has lately gained so much ground in our country. That spirit, growing and freshening with the advance of years, has been greatly strengthened and fostered by the exertions of the *New-York Historical Society*, an institution which it is but faint praise to say, has more than fulfilled the high hopes entertained of its future value and influence, by its projectors, in the year 1804. Exerting itself laudably in times of difficulty—struggling with adversity, and braving obstacles—its important objects gradually became appreciated by the public; and in the year 1814 a memorial, drawn up by the late Governor De Witt Clinton, then vice-president of the society, stating in a clear and masterly manner the objects of the institution, was presented to the Legis-

lature, and was so favorably received as to induce the grant of twelve thousand dollars in aid of the funds of the society. Its library to this day remains a noble monument of the munificence of the State, and of the liberality of individuals.

In this memorial, the prescient mind of Clinton suggested, in effect, the measure which it was left to after days to see carried into execution. Referring to the gaps and deficiencies in our own existing records, the papers of the Dutch West India Company and the archives of the then Government of the Netherlands were pointed out, as the sources whence materials for the Dutch portion of our history were to be obtained; and the records of the Plantation Office, (Board of Trade,) in London, and the library of the British Museum, were also alluded to, as affording an important and inestimable fund of information respecting the period of our subjection to the crown of Great Britain. The public offices in Canada, it was also suggested, might contain much of interest to our historians. But circumstances for a long time prevented any direct effort being made by the society, to obtain the favorable consideration of the subject by the Legislature; and it was not until the year 1838, that any formal steps were taken in the matter. In the month of April of that year, upon the motion of Mr. George Folsom, a memorial was prepared and presented to the Legislature, urging the importance of an investigation of European archives, for the purpose of procuring those materials for the illustration of our history, which our own State records could not furnish; and praying the State to undertake, for the benefit of the people, an enterprise the society of their own means were unable to carry into execution. This memorial, however, was presented so near to the close of the session, as to render it expedient to postpone further efforts till the next year; when, the subject having been clearly and forcibly introduced by a message from the Governor, and its importance urged upon the members of the Legislature, by the zealous and unwearied attention of Mr. John L. Stephens, the late Mr. William L. Stone, and others, an act was passed, with great unanimity on the 2d May, 1839, authorizing the appointment of an agent "to visit England, Holland, and France, for the purpose of procuring, if possible, the originals, and if not, copies of all such documents and papers in the archives and offices of those governments, relating to, or in any way affecting the colonial or other histo-

ry of this State, as he may deem important to illustrate that history;" and directing that the documents, when procured, be deposited in the office of the Secretary of State, at Albany, subject to the use of the State Historical Society.

Under this act, I had the honor to receive a commission as agent, on the 20th of January, 1841. By the general instructions, in which the views of the Executive in relation to the duties of my mission, were subsequently communicated to me, I was advised to proceed first, to Holland, and ascertain what documents required my attention there; and then to England, and to France. The inspection of the state papers of foreign governments, it is well known, is not a mere matter of course, but is considered a privilege of a high order; and is granted in most cases, only upon applications backed by high personal or official influence. I accordingly had an interview with the Secretary of State of the United States, for the purpose of procuring specific instructions to the American ministers at London, Paris, and the Hague, in favor of my agency; but he having declined giving them at that time, I embarked for Europe on the 1st of May, 1841.

On my arrival at London, on my way to Holland, I had several interviews with Mr. Stevenson, then American minister at the court of St. James; and communicated to him very fully, the objects of my mission. Mr. Stevenson, though uninstructed by the General Government on this point, interested himself at once, very warmly, in the subject; and advised an application forthwith, to Her Majesty's government, for permission to the agent to make selections and transcripts of documents in the British archives relative to our colonial and other history. A note was accordingly addressed to the Marquis of Normanby, on the 22d May, 1841, explaining the objects of the State in making the application, and requesting that the necessary facilities might be afforded me for accomplishing, with as little delay as possible, the purpose of my mission to England. This note was referred by the Marquis of Normanby, to Lord Palmerston, Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; and on the 20th July following an answer was returned to Mr. Stevenson, that Lord Palmerston felt some difficulty in acceeding to my application; *but that if I would send to him a list of any particular documents I*

wished to obtain, his lordship would have them examined by some competent person, and if no objection should be found to their being communicated, they should be copied for my use, on the usual terms, at my expense.

Upon the receipt of this answer to my application, Mr. Stevenson immediately replied, explaining that *no particular documents* were asked for by the agent of New-York ; that the object of the State was to have its colonial history written from authentic documents, many of which were presumed to be in the State Paper Office, but whose particular character could not be known, and that they could not, therefore, be described ; that the limitations and restrictions imposed in former cases, were of course expected to be observed in the present, and that the agent would, in fact, consider himself subject to the control and pleasure of the department.

It was hoped that on a review of the subject, Her Majesty's Government would have looked more auspiciously upon the application, and that, so far from perceiving in it any thing objectionable, would rather have viewed the objects of the State as of a purely literary, and altogether praiseworthy character ; and, as such, commending themselves to the favorable and liberal consideration of an enlightened government. But the then ministry went out of office without having altered or modified their decision, which—considering the impossibility of my pointing out the particular documents, I might wish to have transcribed, without having the opportunity of learning even the date of one of them—amounted, in fact, to a refusal of the application of the State. While referring to this subject, I cannot omit availing myself of the occasion to acknowledge the warm and ready interest Mr. Stevenson took in the objects of the agency, and the personal obligations I feel for the courtesies he extended to the agent.

Meantime, pursuant to my instructions, and to Mr. Stevenson's advice, I had proceeded to Holland, with a view of investigating the archives of that country, for documents relating to our early colonial history; intending, upon the termination of my researches in the Netherlands, to return to London, and avail myself of the expected liberality of the British Government. Immediately on my arrival at the Hague, I opened the business of my mission to Mr. Bleecker, then the chargé d'affaires of the United States near the King of the Nether-

lands. The well known interest of this gentleman in the cause of historical research, induced him to enter at once, cordially into the views of the State; and I gladly and gratefully embrace this opportunity to renew the expression of my thanks for those valuable counsels, and friendly efforts to further the objects of my appointment, which he was always ready to give, and anxious to make.

In order to obtain the necessary facilities for investigating the archives of the Netherlands, an application was addressed by Mr. Bleecker, on my behalf, to the Baron Verstolk de Soelen, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Upon my presentation to the King, a few days afterwards, His Majesty received me in the kindest manner, expressing much pleasure with the objects of my mission, and a warm interest in its successful accomplishment. The general direction of the Royal Archives being entrusted to the Minister of the Interior, the application was promptly referred to the Baron Schimmelpennick, the head of that department ; and an interview was accordingly had with His Excellency, who at once informed me that he would give directions to the officer in charge of the archives, to afford me all facilities for the purpose of fully carrying out the objects of my commission, and which had been directed by the King himself, to be as liberal in their extent as the exigencies of the service would allow.

The Government Records at the Hague, are placed under the supervision of an "Archivarius," at present Yonkheer J. C. de Jonge, a gentleman of great intelligence and urbanity, and from whom I received numerous marks of kindness and courtesy, which I am happy to acknowledge. M. de Jonge, on my presenting myself at the archives, pointed out the various depositories in which the documents presumed to relate to the subject of my research were contained ; and gave directions that every book and paper, known or supposed to contain information affecting our colonial history, be submitted, without reserve, to my inspection, and every arrangement made that could facilitate my labors.

The archives of the Netherlands, it is believed, constitute one of the richest depositories of historical information, to be found in Europe; commencing with the period of the Union of Utrecht, in 1579, and extending down to the French Revolution. They are contained in an immense suite of apartments in the old palace of the Binnenhof;

and the documents are, in general, very well arranged, though not all equally well preserved. The greater part are contained in parchment-bound volumes, in most instances paged and indexed for convenient reference. They consist, chiefly, of minutes of the proceedings of the States General, at their ordinary and secret meetings, kept by their *Greffiers*, or clerks; in which are entered, in detail, the resolutions of that body, on all matters coming before them. These registers commence with the year 1579, and are preserved in an unbroken series, from that date. The diplomatic correspondence of the Government, as well as copies of general letters, and also the instructions and commissions issued from time to time, are preserved in several separate series of books. The original papers and memorials received by the States General from time to time, are arranged on *Liasses*, or files, or are tied up in bundles, which are deposited in the *Secrete*, and *Loket*, Kas. These papers have suffered much more from the effects of time and exposure, than those in the bound volumes.

It was necessary that careful and laborious researches should be made in all these different repositories. Aided by the accurate knowledge and long experience of Mr. J. A. de Zwaan, the "Commis Chartermeester" at the Royal Archives,—and whose enthusiastic and untiring co-operation I am proud to acknowledge, contributed in an essential degree to the success of the research,—I was unremittingly occupied during several months, in a toilsome investigation, in the course of which upwards of four hundred volumes and bundles of papers were carefully examined. Many of the documents were worm-eaten and decayed; and the circumstance that most of them were written in the perverse and obscure characters common in the seventeenth century, increased not a little, the difficulty of the research.

The results of my investigations in the archives at the Hague, however, strengthened the impression I had previously entertained, that though a great and valuable amount of information, on points either entirely novel, or at best but imperfectly known in our history, was there contained, the records of the Dutch West India Company, which had the supervision and direction of the colony of New Netherland, were the grand magazine in which I might hope to find those more particular details of voyages, discoveries, emigrations, settlements and personal narratives, which would be of the highest interest to the descendants of the early settlers, as well as to the his-

torian of New-York. Relying on the information which had been given me at the Hague, that these records, commencing with the period of the organization of the company in 1621, were preserved complete at Amsterdam; an order was accordingly obtained from the minister of the colonies, directing the keeper of the old East and West-India Company's papers at Amsterdam, to afford me every facility for examining the documents in his custody. The Archives of the city of Amsterdam were also presumed to contain important information relative to the colony of "Nieuw-Amstel," which the city undertook to manage in the year 1656; and a letter in my behalf was in consequence addressed by the Minister of the Interior to the Burgomaster. In further prosecution of my duty, I accordingly visited Amsterdam.

But on applying at the West India House, I was, to my infinite surprise and mortification, informed by Mr. de Munnick, the keeper, that all the books, documents and papers of every kind, belonging to the old East and West India Companies, of a date prior to 1700, had been sold at public auction, in the year 1821, by order of the Government of the Netherlands. That nothing should be left undone, however, I instituted a thorough search among the remaining papers, in the hope that something, however small, might have escaped the operation of the order. But I regret to say, that this examination was attended with no favorable result; and I reluctantly abandoned the cherished hope that the archives of the West India Company would have proved a rich mine of historical wealth to our State. Examinations were also made in the papers of the East India Company, in the hope that something might be ascertained relative to Hudson's voyage of discovery, which was made in their service. The only trace found of that voyage, is a memorandum in one of the "ship books," which accidentally escaped sale, stating that the yagt Halve-Maan, of forty lasts (eighty tons) burthen, had been sent "towards the north," in 1608. Unwilling, however, to abandon all hope of recovering a portion, at least, of the records which had been sold, I caused advertisements to be inserted in the most widely circulated journals of the country, requesting any person who might have in his possession any documents relating to the history of the colony of New-Netherland, to have the goodness to communicate with the (then) consul of the United States, at Amsterdam, Mr. J. W. Van den Broek.

The kind attentions and friendly exertions of this gentlemen, to further the objects of my visit to Amsterdam, have imposed on me an obligation which I would do great injustice to my feelings if I did not take this opportunity to acknowledge. It was subsequently ascertained that a portion of the records sold at Amsterdam, was in the possession of the original buyer, a person residing at the Hague. I purchased permission of him to make an examination of this portion, which was accordingly effected. Nothing, however, relating to our history was found ; and the mortifying conviction is now forced upon us, that the papers of the West India Company relating to New-Netherland,—which, until the year 1821, were easily attainable by the State, and whose destruction has left such a chasm in the original materials for the illustration of our annals,--are now irrecoverably lost!

The application to the authorities of the city of Amsterdam, for permission to examine their archives, was at once acceeded to, in the most courteous manner, and prompt arrangements were made to facilitate my investigation of the records in the Stad-Huys. Quite a number of interesting documents, relating to the city colony on the South River, were found, and copied.

Examinations were also made of the valuable collections of manuscripts and pamphlets in the royal library at the Hague ; and the most courteous attention was shown by the estimable librarian, Mr. J. W. Holtrop.

The result of my researches in the various repositories in the Netherlands just referred to, is the procurement of sixteen volumes of transcripts, containing upwards of four thousand pages. As a full and accurate catalogue of the documents transcribed, is appended to this report, it is unnecessary to give any particular analysis of their character here. I will only remark that they commence with the year 1614, and extend down, in a tolerably complete series, to 1678, consisting chiefly of memorials and papers presented to the States General, respecting New-Netherland, and the proceedings of that body in relation to the various matters from time to time brought before them, affecting the colony and its inhabitants. The act of the Legislature directed me to procure, if possible, the *originals*, and if not, *copies* of all documents illustrating our history. I applied for the originals, but the regulations of office did not allow a compliance

with my request; copies were therefore made of the papers selected. Not the slightest difficulty, however, occurred in obtaining these, and not a single objection was made to my having any document transcribed I wished. The most unbounded liberality was evinced on every occasion, by the government of that country to which we trace, with such affectionate veneration, the foundation of our State, and the most friendly and gratifying interest was always exhibited by the gentlemen connected with the different departments of the administration, with whom the business of my mission from time to time brought me into communication.

The investigations in the archives of the Netherlands being now terminated, I returned to London in December, 1841, to prosecute the duties of my mission. A new ministry, with the Earl of Aberdeen as principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had come into power, and Mr. Stevenson had been succeeded by Mr. Everett as Minister of the United States, near Her Britannic Majesty. At the request of the Governor, and justly appreciating the importance to the Union, as well as to the State of New-York, of the objects contemplated by the State, in sending an agent to Europe, the President of the United States had instructed Mr. Everett to apply to the British Government for such facilities as might be necessary for the successful prosecution of my proposed researches in England.

Directly on his arrival at London, I had an interview with Mr. Everett, and acquainted him fully with the objects of my mission, and with the previous steps that had been taken. It need scarcely be said that the views of the State were at once warmly and zealously entered into, by the distinguished gentleman who represents our country in England, and whose friendly and valuable counsels have laid me under obligations I shall always be proud to acknowledge; or that it was fortunate for the cause of literature and historical investigation, that the Earl of Aberdeen was Foreign Secretary of Great Britain, when the agent of this state made a renewed attempt to obtain permission from Her Majesty's government to execute the duties of his mission. No time was lost; and on the 23d December, 1841, Mr. Everett addressed a note to Lord Aberdeen, recapitulating the steps Mr. Stevenson had taken with the late ministry, and expressing a hope that the requisite facilities for the attainment of the objects of my mission would now be afforded by the Government of Great Britain;

for which it is claimed that it has "never permitted itself to be surpassed by any other, in the countenance which it has at all times extended to every judicious effort for the promotion of useful knowledge." Some time subsequently, Lord Aberdeen having suggested that though it might not be possible for me to furnish a specific list of the historical documents desired, yet, that a general statement of their nature must be practicable, and would facilitate a decision on the pending application, I prepared a statement of the kind proposed, and as specific as the nature of the case admitted; which Mr. Everett transmitted to his Lordship, in a note dated 14th February, 1842, in which the purely literary character and objects of my commission were again urged, and the hope expressed that the synopsis I had prepared would remove whatever hesitation may have existed in reference to a compliance with my request.

It is unnecessary to detail the various difficulties that were encountered, and the many delays that occurred, before the desired permission was obtained. At length, on the 6th of April, 1842, I commenced my labors in "Her Majesty's State Paper Office." An order was sent by Lord Aberdeen to the keeper of the state papers, allowing me to inspect the documents in the Office relative to the Province of New-York; with the understanding that my examinations were to be made in the presence of an officer of the establishment, and that I was merely, in the first instance, to indicate, by slips of paper, the documents I might wish to transcribe, and not to transcribe, or make extracts of any of them, until the papers so indicated, should have been examined and allowed, on the part of Lord Aberdeen.

This order was interpreted by the keeper of the state papers, with such strictness, as to cause me serious embarrassment and inconvenience. I was not allowed to make the slightest note or memorandum even of the date of a document; which, under the circumstances—the mass of papers to be gone over, being so large—was desirable, and even necessary, in order to avoid the risk of marking duplicates, and the embarrassment of depending on memory alone. This, and other points—one of which was a permission to employ copyists of my own selection, by whom the transcripts could have been made at a much less expense than that incurred by the charges of the regular clerks of the office—formed the subject of a subsequent note of Mr. Everett to Lord Aberdeen. His Lordship prompt-

ly replied, giving me the further permission desired, respecting the making memoranda, &c.; but declining to accede to the request that I might be allowed to employ a private copyist. I was obliged, in consequence, to pay to the clerks of the office, 4d. sterling, for every folio of 72 words, that they transcribed.

"Her Majesty's State Paper Office," in London, is strictly a part of the sovereign's own private library—an appendage to the Secretary of State's Office. Being entirely a government establishment, it is not considered as on the same footing as the manuscript department of the British Museum, or other institutions of a like character. No person is allowed to visit the Office, for the purpose of consulting documents, until an order for the purpose has been obtained from one of the Secretaries of State, who alone have the right of granting the privilege. This order usually specifies the series of papers to which the visitor is to have access; and its directions are strictly and scrupulously followed by the keeper. This Office is the depository of all papers and despatches that pass through the offices of the Secretaries of State, which are there arranged under the superintendence of a keeper, deputy keeper, and other officials; and the accurate and perfect manner in which this is done, reflects the highest credit on the gentlemen to whom the Government entrusts this important duty. The building in which these papers are contained, was erected in the year 1830, in St. James' Park, near the Government offices; and is, in every respect, well adapted to its purposes. In addition to the papers from the offices of the Secretaries of State, (among which is to be found a very voluminous correspondence with the governors and military commanders in America,) the State Paper Office now contains the whole of the records of the "Board of Trade," down to its dissolution, in the year 1782; which were transferred to it by order of Government, in March, 1842. Upwards of two thousand large folio volumes, relating chiefly to the American Colonies, were thus added, in one mass, to this invaluable repository of historical wealth.

The general supervision and management of the British Plantations in America and elsewhere, was entrusted by King Charles II., by royal commission, dated 1 December, 1660, to a standing council, who were instructed to correspond with the several governors, &c.,

and in general to dispose of all matters relating to the good government and improvement of the colonies. Subsequent commissions were from time to time issued to various individuals, substantially of the same tenor, constituting them a Council for foreign plantations, for the time being. On the 21st of December, 1674, the king revoked the commission for the existing council, and directed their books and papers to be delivered to the clerk of the Privy Council. By order in council, dated 12 March, 1675, King Charles II. referred whatever matters had been under the cognizance of the late Council of trade and foreign plantations, to a committee of the Privy Council, consisting of the Lord Treasurer, the Lord Privy Seal, and others, and directed them to meet once a week, and report their proceedings to the King in council, from time to time. During the reign of King James II., the affairs of the Plantations continued to be managed by a similar committee of Privy Council; and upon the accession of this monarch, (6 February, 1685,) the Province of New-York having devolved to the crown, it was placed under the supervision of this committee. Upon the accession of King William III., in February, 1689, a committee of the Privy Council continued to manage the affairs of the plantations, until their growing importance suggested the necessity of a separate and distinct department of government, for their direction.

The year 1696 is the era of the permanent organization of what is familiarly known to our historians as the "Board of Trade." On the 15th May, in that year, King William III., by royal commission, constituted and appointed the great officers of state, for the time being, and certain other persons, "Commissioners during the royal pleasure, for promoting the trade of the kingdom, and for inspecting and improving the plantations in America, and elsewhere." This board was empowered and required to examine into the general condition of the trade of England, and of foreign parts, and to make representations to the king thereupon; to take into their custody all records and papers belonging to the Plantation Office; to inquire into the condition of the plantations; to examine into the instructions of the Governors, &c., and represent their conduct to the King; to present the names of proper persons for governors and secretaries, &c., in the colonies, to the King in council; to examine into and consider the acts passed in the colonies; to hear complaints, and make representa-

tions thereupon, &c. ; and with power to send for persons and papers. The Board of Trade and Plantations, as thus organized, was continued through the succeeding reigns, by royal commisions, until its final dissolution, by act of Parliament, in July, 1782.

The records of the Board of Trade were kept with much care and system. Their proceedings on all subjects brought before them were accurately entered in a series of large folio journals, commencing with 1696, and extending down to 1782 ; and which, including the records of the proceedings of the Committee of Privy Council, between 1675 and 1696, numbers about 130 volumes.

The documents relating to the affairs of each Province and Colony, were regularly and separately preserved in two series of books ; the one styled "Entries," in which were recorded all the letters and representations of the Board in reference to its concerns ; and the other, entitled "Papers," in which all the original documents received at Whitehall were carefully bound up. There are 123 large volumes of "Entries" and "Papers," relating to the Province of New-York, in the Board of Trade series ; commencing with 1664, and extending to 1782 ; in which are included the documents relating to the proprietary government under the Duke of York, which were transferred to the Committee for Foreign Plantations, &c., upon the devolution of the province to the crown, on the accession of King James II. Documents of general concern to all the Provinces and Colonies, were recorded and preserved in a separate series of books amounting to sixty, entitled "Plantations General."

The records of the State Paper Office properly, are not nearly so perfect, especially in the earlier periods, as those of the Board of Trade. It was only in matters of great secrecy and concern that the provincial governors were required to correspond directly with the Secretaries of State ; and it is probably in consequence of this, that there are only six volumes of New-York records from the Secretary's Office, between 1696 and 1752. These volumes are composed, chiefly, of letters from the Governors to the Secretaries, which are, in many instances, almost literal copies of those sent to the Lords of Trade. There are very few letters from the Secretaries to the Governors during this period. There are no Secretary of States' records whatever,

relating to New-York, between 1752 and 1762; but after this year, and down to 1781, the correspondence is full and voluminous; that relating to this Province alone, filling nineteen large folio volumes, and comprising, as well, the letters of the Secretaries to the Governors. Besides the several series relating to the different Provinces, there is a set of volumes numbering eighteen, entitled "Plantations General," in which the general correspondence of the Secretaries with the Colonies, and with the Superintendents of Indian affairs, &c., between 1760 and 1781, is preserved.

In addition to the volumes above mentioned, amounting in all to 356, a series of books, sixty-two in number, entitled "Trade Papers," embracing a miscellaneous collection of documents relating to trade, and foreign plantations, from 1542 to 1761, was submitted to my inspection, agreeably to the terms of the Secretary of State's order. In the course of my researches I ascertained that there were other sets of books and papers, in which documents relating to our history were contained, but which my order, as it stood, did not allow me to examine. I was consequently obliged to apply to Lord Aberdeen for further permissions, which were granted; and nearly a hundred other volumes and bundles of papers were submitted to my inspection.

Thus upwards of five hundred volumes and bundles of papers were thoroughly and carefully examined in the State Paper Office. Each document desired for transcription was indicated by a slip of paper, and subsequently re-examined by a gentleman connected with the Foreign Office, under Lord Aberdeen's direction. Such of them only, as were not objected to, were copied. The copies were made by the regular clerks of the Office, on the terms above stated; and in every instance the orthography of the originals was scrupulously followed. In making my selections, the greatest care and caution was necessary in order to avoid marking duplicates of papers, which are very numerous; and the immense number of the documents themselves, and the unexpectedly high charge for transcribing, were also causes of considerable embarrassment. I cannot close this reference to my researches in the State Paper Office, without bearing testimony to the excellent and orderly arrangement of every part of the establishment; and I would be greatly wanting to my feelings if I were to omit an expression of my admiration of the politeness and attention of Messrs.

Charles Lechmere, and Robert Lemon, the deputy keeper, and chief clerk. To the latter gentleman particularly, I feel under great obligations, not only for his personal courtesies to myself, but for the ready and zealous interest he manifested in the success of the undertaking I was charged by the State to execute.

Presuming that the office of the Privy Council might contain information relative to the subject of my research, I addressed a note to Mr. Greville, one of the clerks in ordinary, requesting permission to examine its earlier records. A prompt and most courteous answer was returned, complying with my request; and I examined the registers under the care of the librarian of the archives, Mr. Henry Reeve, to whose kindness I am much indebted for the facilities he afforded me. Very few documents, however, were found relating to our colonial history. There are no separate papers whatever, in the Privy Council Office, of a date prior to 1700; but the registers of its proceeding are preserved complete from the time of Queen Elizabeth.

The library of the British Museum, already a magnificent monument of the public spirit of the nation, is daily becoming more and more worthy the admiration of the world. The collection of printed books and pamphlets, whose number, though not accurately known, certainly exceeds 300,000 volumes, is one of the most perfect in existence; and there are nearly 40,000 volumes of manuscripts. The arrangements for the examination of these literary treasures are very convenient; and though, in such a metropolis as London, some regulations are necessary to exclude improper persons, those regulations are so easy to be complied with, that the library may be said to be, in effect, open to the public. Through the kind and polite attention of Sir Henry Ellis, the principal librarian, I had every facility afforded me for examining the various printed and manuscript collections, and quite a number of transcripts were made of papers bearing upon our history. While speaking of this noble institution, I may be permitted to remark that no where else was I more strongly convinced of the indispensable necessity to the investigator, of accurate catalogues, both for printed books and for manuscripts. There is now in course of preparation a systematic alphabetical catalogue of the printed works, of such comprehensiveness, that the letter "A," alone, occupies about twenty large folio volumes. Notwithstanding the active

and skilful exertions of the learned and competent gentlemen who are engaged in this important work, it will be many years before it can be completed. The manuscripts are already catalogued, and their examination thus rendered perfectly easy. The Harleian, the Lansdowne, and the Cottonian collections, by means of their accurate catalogues, which were published some years ago by Government, are almost as well known to literary men on this side of the ocean, as to those in Europe; and each addition to the manuscript department, as it is received, is at once catalogued, and thus rendered accessible.

The Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth, has also afforded us some interesting historical materials. My application to the Archbishop of Canterbury, for permission to make researches in the library, was promptly and cheerfully complied with; and it gives me great satisfaction to have this opportunity of acknowledging the very marked liberality of the venerable prelate, at the head of the English Church, as well as the urbanity and friendly interest displayed by His Grace's librarian, the Rev. S. R. Maitland, in making every arrangement for my convenient examination of the documents in his custody.

From the various Repositories in London to which reference has just been made, I procured nearly seventeen thousand pages of transcripts of documents relating to our history, which fill forty-seven volumes. A complete and accurate catalogue of the "London Documents," is appended to this report; by means of which, the character of each paper can be at once ascertained; and any particular analysis of the series, at present, is thus rendered unnecessary. It commences with 1614, and ends with 1782; comprising the official correspondence of the Governors of New-York, from its surrender by the Dutch in 1664, to the end of the Revolution; as well as various documents of interest, received from private hands. In making my selections, the greatest care was taken, to avoid procuring papers known to be already in the Secretary of State's Office, at Albany. I was unable to find any trace of the original books of records of the Indian Commissioners, which are supposed to have been removed from this State during the revolutionary war; but copies have been made of all Sir William Johnson's official letters to the British Government, which remain in the State Paper Office, as well as of the greater part of the proceedings respecting Indian affairs, which were from time to time sent to London.

It will perhaps be noticed that previous to 1674, there are no despatches or communications from the Duke of York or his secretary, to his officers in New-York; and but few from them, to His Royal Highness. The first Entry Book, or Record of Letters from the Duke, commences with 1674; and from that period they are tolerably well preserved. There are several deficiencies in the series of letters from Governor Nicholls; and very few of Governor Lovelace's communications were found. There does not seem to have been any file of Governor Andros' letters to the Duke, or Sir John Worden, handed to the Committee for Trade and Plantations, when the affairs of the Province came under its supervision, upon the devolution of New-York to the crown, on the accession of King James II.; but after that date the records are much more perfect. After the final organization of the Board of Trade, by King William III., in 1696, the New-York papers are full and complete.

The policy of France in regard to her Canadian Possessions—the establishment of her military positions on our frontiers—and her negotiations with the Indian tribes on our borders, and within the very limits of our territory itself, are directly and intimately connected with our Colonial History; and her long struggle to maintain her influence in the northern portion of our continent, affected, in no small degree, the condition, disposition and purposes of the People of New-York. It was with a view of obtaining authentic historical materials illustrating these points, that an examination of the archives of the French Government was made a part of my duty.

Having made some progress in my researches in London, and commenced the transcription of documents there, I wrote to General Cass, then minister of the United States at Paris, explaining the objects of the State, and requesting his intervention with the French Government, for the purpose of procuring me permission to examine its archives, for papers relating to Canada and New-York. A simple statement of my object, was all that was necessary to awaken the warmest interest of that eminent gentleman; and he forthwith applied on my behalf, to Admiral Baron Duperré, then Minister of the Marine and the Colonies, for permission to examine the papers relating to Canada in the Bureaus of his Department. An answer was promptly returned, authorizing me to make the researches I wished, without limitation; and adding, that "all the facilities he can desire, will be

accorded" to the Agent. I will only remark, in passing, that this liberality did not prove to be mere formal phrase.

In further prosecution of the duties of my mission, I accordingly went to Paris in June, 1842, and commenced my examinations in the archives of the Marine and the Colonies. The general management of the French dependencies in America, having been, from an early period, entrusted to this department, its archives are very rich in matters relating to their history. They consist chiefly of instructions of the French Government to its agents in America, letters and despatches to the King and his Ministers, and original papers from the Colonial authorities to the home Government; correspondence with the neighboring English Colonies; reports of interviews with the Indian tribes; plans of campaigns, and details of battles and skirmishes, &c. &c.

The documents relating to Canada and New-York are contained in two several divisions. The one is a series of bound volumes, commencing with the year 1663, and ending, very abruptly, with 1737. It comprises about 70 volumes, and contains the despatches and commissions of the King and his Ministers to the Governors and other functionaries in the French colonies. It is greatly to be regretted that the volumes subsequent to 1737, appear to be missing. The other, and by far the most fertile repository, is a series of upwards of an hundred enormous "cartons" or port-folios, each larger than two ordinary folio volumes, and in which, at the time of my examination, were placed loosely, and without chronological order, or even the least attempt at arrangement, a mass of original documents relating to Canada, from 1630, to the Treaty of Paris, 10th February, 1763. The state of deplorable confusion in which I found the contents of these cartons, can scarcely be conceived by any one who has not made personal investigations; and it must be very evident, that it was embarrassing in no small degree. It not only very greatly increased the labor of the research, but it was found that in many instances, papers of presumed importance, were missing from the mass. It is hoped however, that under the superintendence of the present competent and intelligent chief of the Archives, M. Davezac, these valuable papers, whose present confusion, (one of the results, perhaps, of the revolutionary fury of 1793,) exhibits such a striking contrast to the

system and order that generally prevails in the French Government Bureaus, will soon be arranged in a manner consistent with their high importance and worthy the dignity of the nation. Several months were occupied in a careful and toilsome investigation of these documents; and such as were found to relate to our history were selected and transcribed.

Knowing, however, that the archives of the Department of the Marine and the Colonies, was not the only source from whence to obtain information, an application was addressed to the Minister of War, Marshal Soult, Duke of Dalmatia, which was promptly answered by a letter stating that orders had been given for my admission to the Depôt and Archives of the War Department, "for the purpose of examining and copying all the documents relative to the operations of the French, in Canada, until the period of the Treaty of Paris, in 1763." This frank and liberal order, so characteristic of the gallant soldier who presides over the Council of Ministers, was very handsomely carried into effect by General Baron Pelet, the Director-General of the Archives of the Department; to whose obliging and polite attention I am very greatly indebted for the facilities he afforded me for examining the documents in his custody. The Archives of the Department of War present a very gratifying contrast in respect to arrangement, to those of the Marine and the Colonies. The papers are chronologically arranged in bound volumes, and their examination was as agreeable and pleasant, as that of the cartons of the Marine was laborious and annoying. The documents selected and transcribed, relate chiefly to the period between 1755, and the treaty of Paris; and comprise the correspondence of the military commanders in America, with the French Government.

An application was also made for permission to examine the Archives of the Department of Foreign Affairs, for papers relating to the history of Canada, and the intercourse between that Colony and the Province of New-York; but M. Guizot, in his reply to Gen. Cass' note, thus expressed himself: "I would be very happy to comply with your request, if my Department possessed any documents relative to this Colony; but the Ministry of the Marine, to which you have already applied, is the only one which can furnish you with in-

formation on this subject, Canada having always been under its supervision, and never having had any relations with my Department."

Researches were also made in the collections in the Royal Library at Paris; a most full and unqualified permission for which purpose, was granted by M. Villemain, the Minister of Public Instruction, and every facility afforded by the gentlemen in charge of this magnificent institution.

My investigations in the several Repositories at Paris, just alluded to, occupied me several months, and resulted in the procurement of seventeen volumes of transcripts, containing upwards of six thousand pages. A full and accurate catalogue of the "Paris Documents," in which every paper, its date, and a reference to its page, is indicated, being also appended to this report, renders any particular reference to their contents, unnecessary in this place. They commence with 1631, and extend to 1763; including selections of the correspondence of the Governors of Canada with the authorities in France, respecting Indian affairs, the relations with this Province, &c.; as well as the despatches of the military commanders, during the romantic and exciting period in our history, of the "French War."

As at the Hague, and in London, the regulations of the offices at Paris did not allow me to execute that part of the law establishing the agency, requiring the procurement, if possible, of original documents. Transcripts were made, therefore, of the papers selected; and the orthography of the originals was followed as accurately as possible. In closing this reference to my researches at Paris, I cannot forbear the remark, that the proverbial reputation of the French Government, in regard to all matters connected with scientific and literary investigation, was amply sustained in the courtesies that were extended to the agent of this State; and that the historical treasures which were found in its Archives, are only equaled by the prompt and generous liberality with which they were thrown open to my inspection. That much of the good feeling exhibited, was owing to the high standing of our Minister at the French Court, is unquestionable; and I feel it a duty, not less incumbent than grateful, again to acknowledge the marked kindness of General Cass, and the personal and zealous exertions he never failed making, to render my visit to Paris most advantageous to the State.

The researches in the French Archives being completed, I returned to London, and was some time occupied in further investigations, and in making preparations for my return to America. The documents transcribed at Paris and in London were carefully packed, insured, and shipped for New-York; and my arrangements having been completed, I embarked for home, on the 7th July, 1844.

From this detail of proceedings, it will be perceived that the execution of my mission was attended with considerable embarrassment. This occurred chiefly in London, where the regulations of office were much more stringent than at the Hague, or in Paris. In both these latter places, there was no difficulty experienced, either in obtaining access to the Archives, or in procuring transcripts at reasonable rates. The price paid for copies, was about eleven cents for each page. In London, however, as before stated, my application for permission to employ a private copyist having failed, I was obliged to pay to the regular clerks in the State Paper Office, 4d. sterling for every folio of seventy-two words, or about twenty-five cents for an ordinary page transcribed. This circumstance, and the unexpectedly large number of volumes to be examined, caused me much embarrassment. It became desirable to limit my selections as much as possible, in order to keep the expenses within the amount of the funds appropriated for the ageney; while at the same time my duty did not allow me to pass by a single document coming under my observation, "important" to illustrate our history. I have before stated, that in the course of my investigations in the State Paper Office, I ascertained that there were other series of books and papers than those the terms of my original permission allowed me to inspect, containing information respecting our history; and that a subsequent order from Lord Aberdeen, gave me the liberty to examine a large number of additional volumes. I am far from affirming however, that every thing in relation to our history in the British archives, has beeen obtained; though I think it may safely be said that the greater and more valuable portion of the materials there preserved, has been secured. Had sufficient funds been placed at my disposal, I should have pursued my researches, until every thing accessable had been obtained; and should especially have endeavored to procure copies of the correspondence of the British military commanders in America, from the surrender of Canada, to the end of the American revolution.

The selection of documents was a point necessarily left to the discretion of the agent, and in the execution of this important duty, I adopted for my rule a principle which cannot be better expressed than in the words of the Editors of the "Clarendon State Papers," who say in their preface—"In so large a collection, there occurred, as might well be expected, some papers of a private nature, others of no consequence to the public. To separate these from the rest, was a point left to the discretion of the Editors, by the Trustees of the late Lord Hyde. Such, therefore, as appeared to them in either of these lights, are rejected from publication. They have used their best judgment, and the utmost caution, in acquitting themselves of this trust; and if there are still any given which may appear to some to be scarce worthy of publication, they desire it may be considered that men's ideas of such matters are often very different, and that any particular paper, which upon being perused apart from the rest, may seem of too little consequence to merit the public notice, would yet have been very improperly suppressed, either because it may be connected with, and tend to illustrate a more interesting paper, or on account of some other circumstance which may not immediately occur to the reader."

Immediately on my arrival in New-York, in August last, I waited on Governor Bouck, and acquainted him with the results of my mission. As the transcripts made in London and in Paris were unarranged, and as it was essential to their usefulness that they should be disposed in accurate chronological order, bound into volumes, and carefully indexed, before being deposited in the Secretary of State's Office, the Governor thought it best that I should occupy myself with this duty, and report fully to the Executive upon its completion. I have, accordingly, been diligently engaged in the execution of this work, since August last.

The transcripts were all separately made, and in such a manner that they could be afterwards arranged in proper order. This was necessarily the case, as the originals were not all contained in one particular set of books or papers, but were scattered through many and various series. The documents copied at the Hague, and in Amsterdam, were all arranged and indexed by myself, during leisure evening hours, while in London, in the winter and spring of 1843; and were bound and sent to Albany in the summer of that year. The "Holland Documents" occupy, as before stated, sixteen volumes, and have been

for more than a year in the Secretary of State's office. In arranging the "London Documents," great care was necessary, in order to avoid the apparent confusion of dates, caused by the use of the Old Style, which pervaded in England till the year 1752. It is believed, however, that this point has been carefully guarded, and that the plan I adopted, viz: the use of the *Historical* year, (which commenced on the 1st of January,) instead of the *Legal* year, (which commenced on the 25th March,) and of the *Old* Style, until 1752, when the act of Parliament took effect, will be found to have been judicious, and to meet the approbation of the investigator. The "Paris Documents" are arranged according to the New Style, which was adopted in France in 1582.

The calendars to the "Holland," "London" and "Paris" Documents, appended to this report have been prepared with much care, and it is hoped will be found useful. They indicate the number of each document in the volume, its general scope and character, its date, and its page; and thus, persons at a distance will be enabled to ascertain at once, the contents and the bearing of each paper in the whole series of eighty volumes of European Transcripts.

By the act of the 2d May, 1839, establishing the agency, the sum of four thousand dollars was appropriated towards defraying its expenses. On the 11th of April, 1842, a further sum of three thousand dollars was appropriated by law, for its prosecution; and on the 13th of April 1843, a further sum of five thousand dollars was appropriated by the Legislature. These several appropriations, amounting to twelve thousand dollars, have been drawn from the treasury and entirely exhausted in defraying the expenses of my mission; accurate accounts for which have have been rendered to the Comptroller. I will only add, that I have advanced from my own private means, a considerable amount in addition, which has been applied to defraying the expenses of transportation, insurance, binding, and other incidentals, connected with the arranging and cataloguing of the documents; in which duty, as before stated, I have been constantly occupied since the month of August last.

I have endeavored to lay before your Excellency, as full and as concise a report as possible, of the execution of the duties of the agency I had the honor to have entrusted to me by the Government

of my State. The whole question of this agency, and of its results, is now before my fellow-citizens, and to their judgment it is cheerfully submitted. Under any circumstances, and in any event, and however unworthy the instrument selected to execute her high commission, it must ever be a source of proud reflection, that the State of New-York—not less faithful now, in her time of power and greatness, to her honor and to her fame, than in her day of difficulty and oppression to the principles she then so fearlessly asserted—has been among the foremost of the confederation to vindicate her self-respect to the world, by rescuing from obscurity and long neglect, the scattered memorials of her colonial existence, to place them side by side the records of her independent progress.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your Excellency's obedient servant.
J. ROMEYN BRODHEAD.

Albany, 12*th February*, 1845.

CALENDAR

TO THE

HOLLAND DOCUMENTS,

IN THE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

AT ALBANY;

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE

ROYAL ARCHIVES AT THE HAGUE,

AND IN THE

ARCHIVES OF THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM,

Under and by virtue of an act of the Legislature of the State of New-York, entitled "An act to appoint an Agent to procure and transcribe Documents in Europe relative to the Colonial History of this State," passed May 2, 1839.

By JOHN ROMEYN BRODHEAD,

AGENT UNDER SAID ACT, &c.

NOTE.—The documents in Volumes 1 to 14 inclusive, were copied from the originals in the ROYAL ARCHIVES AT THE HAGUE. Those in volumes 15 and 16, were copied from the originals in the ARCHIVES OF THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM. The documents in the first 14 volumes, are arranged in reference to the date of their *reception* by the States-General, and the action had upon them in that body.

There are no documents in the Archives of the DUTCH WEST INDIA COMPANY AT AMSTERDAM, of an earlier date than the year 1700. All the books and papers of that Company, of the seventeenth century, were sold by public auction in the year 1820, by order of the Government of the Netherlands.

*** ☞ As early as 1575, the year was reckoned in the Netherlands, as commencing on the 1st of January. The Gregorian, or *New Style*, was adopted in 1582, by the Provinces of Holland, Brabant, Flanders, Artois and Hainault; but Guilderland, Zutphen, Utrecht, Friesland, Groningen and Overyssel, continued to use the old calendar till 1700. The dates of the documents in the following volumes are, almost invariably, according to the *New Style*, which seems to have been used by the States-General from and after its adoption by the Province of Holland.

J. R. B.

CALENDAR

TO THE

HOLLAND DOCUMENTS.

VOLUME I.

1611—1632.

No. of Doc.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
	1603.		
1.	August 1.	Resolution of the States-General appointing Captain Dale to a company of foot,.....	1
2.	Dec'r 8.	Resolution of the States-General that Capt. Thomas Dale's commission be expedited,...	2
3.	Dec'r 24.	Resolution of the States-General on the subject of Capt. Thomas Dale's pay, &c., ...	3
	1606.		
4.	Nov'r 15.	Memorandum that Thomas Dale and Sir Thomas Gates were in garrison service at Ondewater,	4
	1608.		
5.	April 24.	Resolution of the States-General to allow Capt. Sir Thomas Gates to be absent from his company, &c., in order to go to Virginia,.....	5
	1611.		
6.	Jan'y 20.	Resolution of States-General upon the recommendation of the Prince of Wales, to allow Capt. Thomas Dale to absent himself from his company for three years in order to go to Virginia in the English service, ...	6
7.	Jan'y 25.	Further resolution of the States-General on the subject of Capt. Dale's going to Virginia,..	8
8.	Feb'y 9.	Further resolution of the States-General on the subject, ...	10
9.	Feb'y 21.	Resolution of the States-General on the subject of furnishing passports, &c., to certain ships	

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	1611.		
		about to set out on voyage of discovery of a passage to China, &c. &c.,	12
10.	Sept'r 7.	Resolution of the states of Holland, &c., upon the memorial of certain merchants about a newly discovered navigation,	14
	1614.		
11.	March 20.	Resolution of the States of Holland, upon the memorial of certain merchants, that the States-General be recommended to pass a general ordinance in favor of all those who discover new lands, &c.,	15
12.	March 27.	Resolution of the States-General, upon the memorial of certain merchants, &c., to grant the act or concession derived in favor of all those who discover any new lands, passages, &c. &c.,	17
13.	March 27.	General Octroy, or Charter, for all those who may discover any new passages, havens, lands or places, &c. &c.,	19
14.	July 18.	Resolution of the States of Holland, upon the memorial presented on behalf of certain merchants concerning the erection of a general trading company for Africa and America,	24
15.	June 21.	Resolution of the States-General upon the same subject,	26
16.	Aug'st 25.	Resolution of the States-General on the subject of the erection of a West India Company,	27
17.	Sept'r 2.	Further resolution of the States-General upon the same subject,	28
18.	Sept'r 27.	Resolution of the States of Holland on the subject of a general West India Company with a draft of an act proposed to be passed by the States-General,	29
19.	Aug. 19.	Letter of King James I. to the States-General, about Sir Thomas Dale, "Marechal de Virginie," &c., dated Newmarket,	35
20.	Sept'r 30.	Resolution of the States-General upon the foregoing letter, to allow Sir Thomas Dale to continue his residence in Virginia until their High Mightinesses shall otherwise direct,	38
21.	Oct'r 11.	Resolution of the States-General (upon the report by the Deputies of the United Company of Merchants who have discovered	

No. of Doc.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
	1614.		
		NewN-etherland, of the particulars of their discovery,) to allow to the said company the exclusive right to make four voyages to New-Netherland, &c., within the time of three years from 1st January, 1615,.....	39
22.	Oct'r 11.	Original draft (in the handwriting of the clerk of the States-General,) of the special grant to Gerrit Jacobsen Witssen and others, united in one company, of an exclusive right of trading, &c., to New-Netherland, for four voyages, within the period of three years, commencing 1st January, 1615, or sooner, [*Note.*—An accurate fac simile of the explanatory map, supposed to have been originally annexed to this draft, and which was presented to the States-General by the Deputies of the United Company of Merchants, is now in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany.]	42
23.	Oct'r 11.	Official copy of the above special grant to Gerrit Jacobsen Witssen, and others, of an exclusive right to trade &c., to New-Netherland, from the "Acte Bock" of the States-General,.....	47
	1616.		
24.	Aug. 18.	Minute of the appearance before the States-General, of Capt. Cornelis Hendricksen, &c., in behalf of Gerrit Jacobsen Witssen, and others, Directors of New.Netherland, and of his making his second report of certain discoveries he had made in New-Netherland, in a small yacht of eight lasts burthen, called the "Onrust," (Restless,) which the Directors had caused to be built there, &c., &c., upon which the States General resolve, that before coming to any decision on the special grant asked for, the report be committed to writing, &c.,.....	53
25.	Aug. 18.	Memorial of Gerrit Jacobsen Witssen, and others, Directors of New-Netherland, to the States-General, in relation to the discovery under their direction, by Capt. Cornelis Hendricksen, of Munnichendam, of certain lands, bay, and three rivers, in the latitude of from	

No. of Doc.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
	1616.		
		38° to 40°; with an explanatory map on parchment, and also a copy of the general charter or ordinance of 27th March, 1614, annexed. [*Note.*—An accurate fac simile of this map on parchment is now in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany.].....	55
26.	Aug. 19.	Report by Capt. Cornelis Hendricksen of Munnichendam, of his discoveries in New-Netherland, presented to the States-General,....	59
27.	Aug. 19.	Minute of the States-General thereupon, ...	62
28.	Sept'r 12.	Minute the States-General upon the foregoing memorial &c., postponing a decision,.....	63
29.	Nov'r 3.	Further minute of the States-General upon the same, again postponing a decision, ...	64
	1617.		
30.	Jan'ry 18.	Minute of the presentation to the States-General of a memorial of Lambecht Van Tweenhuysen, and others, praying the government for a ship of war, to encourage the fishery, &c., at Terra Nova, &c., &c., a decision upon which is postponed, ...	65
31.	July 29.	Resolution of the States of Holland, upon the petition of the Directors of the Australian Company, prohibiting William Janssen from printing or publishing the journals or maps of voyages made in behalf of the said Company, &c.	66
32.	August 2.	Resolution of the States of Holland, forbidding William Janssen to make any corrections upon the globe, or to publish any map containing the newly discovered passage from the North to the South Sea, &c.,.....	67
	1618.		
23.	Jan'y 26.	Memorial of Sir Dudley Carlton, English ambassador to the States-General, on the subject of Sir Thomas Dale's petition to their H. M.	68
	1617.		
34.	Dec'r 2.	Letter of Noel de Caron, the Dutch ambassador at London, to the States-General, on the same subject, ...	73
	1618.		
35.	Jan'y 26.	Petition of Sir Thomas Dale to the States-General setting forth his services in Holland, Virginia, &c., with two endorsements thereon of the action of the States-General thereupon,.	76

No. of Doc.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
	1618.		
36.	Jan'y 26.	Resolution of the States-General, referring Dale's petition to the Council of State, &c.,...	82
37.	Jan'y 29.	Report and advice of the Council of State to the States-General, upon the foregoing reference,.....	84
38.	Feb'y 3.	Minute of the States-General, postponing a final resolution upon the report of the Council of State upon Dale's petition,.....	85
39.	Feb'y 6.	Resolution of the States-General, upon Dale's petition.....	87
40.	Feb'y 9.	Resolution of the States-General, that their determination upon Dale's petition be put into the hands of the Council of State, in order to be carried into effect,.....	88
41.	Aug. 10.	Resolution of the States of Holland, upon the complaint of William Janssen of the interdict against his publishing maps, &c., allowing him permission to publish,.....	90
42.	Oct'r. 4.	Resolution of the States-General, upon the petition of the Company trading to the Island of New-Netherland, praying for a continuation of their special grant, to examine the same before coming to a decision,.....	91
43.	Oct'r 9.	Resolution of the States-General, upon the petition of Henrick Eelkens, and others, participants in the New-Netherland Company, &c., that the petitioners be allowed to send their ship to New-Netherland, &c.....	92
	1620.		
44.	Feb'y 12.	Resolution of the States-General, upon the petition of the Directors of the Company trading to New-Netherland, praying for two ships of war, in order to colonize the same under the protection and authority of their High Mightinesses, that before coming to any conclusion thereupon, the opinion of the Admiralty be taken,.....	94
45.	Feb'y 12.	Memorial of the Directors of the New-Netherland Company, to the Prince of Orange,...	95
46.	Feb'y 26.	Resolution of the States-General, upon the report of the Admiralty, that before coming to any decision upon the subject of the foregoing petition, the opinion of His Excellency the Prince of Orange, be taken,.....	100

No of Doc.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
	1620.		
47.	March 10.	Resolution of the States-General, upon the same subject,.....	101
48.	April 10.	Further resolution of the Statés-General, thereupon,.....	102
49.	April 11.	Resolution of the States-General upon the foregoing petition, absolutely refusing the prayer,	103
50.	Aug. 29.	Minute of the States-General, stating the presentation of the petition of the joint owners of the ship "*Blyde Bootschap*," Capt. Cornelis Jacobsen May, who had discovered certain new populous and fruitful lands, and asking for a special grant, &c., and also, of another petition of Henrick Eelkens, and others, praying their High Mightinesses to refuse to pass any grant to any persons but the petitioners—and that thereupon both parties being called in, the States resolve that both the parties shall meet together, and try to arrange matters amicably,.....	104
51.	Nov. 6.	Resolution of the States-General to refuse the new grant petitioned for, as above, ...	106
	1621.		
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CALENDAR

TO THE

LONDON DOCUMENTS,

IN THE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

AT ALBANY;

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE

QUEEN'S STATE PAPER OFFICE;

IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIVY-COUNCIL; IN THE LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM;

AND IN THE

LIBRARY OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,

AT LAMBETH, IN LONDON.

Under and by virtue of an act of the Legislature of the State of New-York, entitled "An act to appoint an Agent to procure and transcribe Documents in Europe relative to the Colonial History of this State," passed May 2, 1839.

By JOHN ROMEYN BRODHEAD,

AGENT UNDER SAID ACT, &c.

NOTE—The Documents in the following volumes, have been arranged, as nearly as may be, according to strictly chronological order ; and without any regard to the various original Repositories whence they were procured. In some instances, papers were found having no dates marked upon them. They have been placed, however, according to their periods, as nearly as these could be ascertained, by internal, or other evidence. Enclosures have always been placed next after the letter or document transmitting them.

.*. Much confusion has existed in English History, owing to their being two modes of computing dates. For a long time, the *Historical* year was reckoned from the first day of January ; while the *Civil*, *Ecclesiastical*, and *Legal* year, began in the 14th century, to be commenced on the 25th day of March. In consequence of this difference, and to avoid mistakes, it was usual to add the date of the *Historical* to that of the *Legal* year, when referring to any date between the first of January and the twenty-fifth of March.

The *Julian*, or *Old Style*, and the practice of commencing the Legal year on the twenty-fifth of March, subsisted in England until the 24th George II., 1751, when an act of Parliament passed, entitled, "An act for regulating the commencement of the year, and for correcting the Calendar now in use." By this act, it was directed that "the supputation according to which the year of Our Lord began on the twenty-fifth day of March, shall not be used after the last day of December, 1751," and that the first day of January next following, should be reckoned as the first day of the year 1752. It was also further directed that the day next following the second of September, 1752, should be reckoned as the fourteenth day of September, omitting the eleven intermediate nominal days of the common calendar. All public and private proceedings, since 1752, have consequently been dated according to the *New Style*.

☞ In the following volumes, the Documents have been arranged according to the *Historical*, and not the *Legal* year ; and according to the *Old* Style, until the year 1752, when the act of Parliament took effect. J. R. B.

CALENDAR

TO THE

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CALENDAR

TO THE

PARIS DOCUMENTS,

IN THE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

AT ALBANY;

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE

ARCHIVES OF THE "MINISTÈRE DE LA MARINE ET DES COLONIES,"

OF THE

"MINISTÈRE DE LA GUERRE,"

AND IN THE

"BIBLIOTHÈQUE DU ROI,"

AT PARIS:

Under and by virtue of an act of the Legislature of the State of New-York, entitled "An act to appoint an Agent to procure and transcribe Documents in Europe relative to the Colonial History of this State," passed May 2, 1839.

By JOHN ROMEYN BRODHEAD,

AGENT UNDER SAID ACT, &c.

Note.—The dates of the Documents in the following volumes, are, almost invariably, according to the *New Style.*

The various usage in France, respecting the computation of dates, was finally settled by the edict of Charles IX., in January, 1563, and by the edict dated at Roussillon, in Dauphiny, on the 4th of August following; by which, the 1st of January was fixed upon as the commencement of the year.

The *Gregorian*, or *New Style*, was adopted in France, on the 20th of December, 1582; the 10th of which month being called the 20th, pursuant to letters patent of Henry III., dated on the 3d of November preceding.

J. R. B.

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ERRATA.

Page 16, line 37, for "would," read should.
Page 17, line 16, for "proceeding," read proceedings.
Page 19, line 7, for "Nicholls," read Nicolls.
Page 19, line 9, for "Worden," read Werden.
Page 20, line 8, for "matters," read materials.
Page 23, line 35, for "accessable," read accessible.
Page 25, line 4, for "pervaded," read prevailed.
Page 28, line 9, for "1820," read 1821.
Page 28, line 12, for "Guilderland," read Guelderland.
Page 29, line 16, for "Ondewater," read Oudewater.
Page 30, line 18, for "derived," read desired.
Page 37, line 1, for "II," read I.
Page 102, line 8, for "their," read there.
Page 113, line —, for "Nicholls," read Nicolls.
Page 121, line 1, for "VI," read IV.
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Page 145, line 1, for "IX," read X.
Page 208, line 44, for "nor," read not.
Page 211, line 38, for "Commissioners," read commissions.
Page 278, line 15, for "country," read county.
Page 296, line 20, for "Ports," read Posts.
Page 330, line 29, for "Mimis," read Miamis.
Page 333, line 5, for "ports," read posts.

STATE OF NEW-YORK.

No. 111.

IN SENATE,

May 5, 1845.

REPORT

Of the select committee on the Colonial Agency.

Mr. Folsom, from the select committee to which was referred the message of the Governor, communicating the final report of John R. Brodhead, agent under the act of the Legislature "to procure and transcribe documents in Europe, relative to the Colonial History of the State," asks leave to submit the following

REPORT:

A respect for the memorials of the past may be justly considered as one of the marks of advanced civilization. Among savage nations the only care is for the supply of present wants, which being exclusively of a physical nature, like those of irrational animals, are easily satisfied, with equal indifference to the past and the future. But as mankind rise in the scale of intelligence, a growing solicitude is felt in regard to circumstances and events beyond the present moment; the necessity of making provision for future exigencies becomes more and more apparent, and leads to untiring exertion to accomplish so important an end. It is reserved, however, for a still higher degree of progress to develope any considerable interest respecting the past. It is an old utilitarian maxim that makes a dead lion of less claim to consideration than a living ass; and the mind

requires to be raised above the ordinary calculations of mere thrift to appreciate the value of what no longer possesses actual power or influence in the esteem of the busy world. The monuments of history, standing aside in the seclusion of by-places and deserted spots, or buried beneath what is generally regarded as the useless rubbish of the remains of antiquity, are passed by with indifference until an enlightened desire is awakened to know something of the early foundations of society, or to explore the sources of national greatness.

It has been made a subject of reproach to this country, by the enemies of republican institutions, that no care is taken among us to preserve our ancient records,—a charge implying a semi-barbarous condition of society, and far from complimentary to our national character. But admitting its truth, to a considerable extent, there is good reason to believe it will not be long deserved; for public attention is beginning to be more and more directed to the importance of rescuing from destruction whatever may tend to illustrate the rise and progress of our institutions, and exhibit, in bolder relief, the character and labors of the pioneers of civilization upon the shores of the new world.

It is the misfortune of this State, that its early founders have been held up to the ridicule of the world by one of its most gifted sons, who has exhausted the resources of his wit and satire in exposing imaginary traits in their characters, while the most polished efforts of his graver style have been reserved to adorn the Corinthian columns of the more aristocratic institutions of foreign countries. A late excellent writer, the author of a valuable history of the United States, although a stranger to our country, has spoken in proper terms on this subject; he remarks as follows: "Founders of ancient "colonies have sometimes been deified by their successors. New-"York is perhaps the only commonwealth whose founders have been "covered with ridicule from the same quarter. It is impossible to "read the ingenious and diverting romance entitled Knickerbocker's "History of New-York, without wishing that the author had put a "little more or a little less truth in it; and that his talent for humor "and sarcasm had found another subject than the dangers, hardships, "and virtues, of the ancestors of his national family. It must be "unfavorable to patriotism, to connect historical recollections with "ludicrous associations," &c.*

* Grahame's History of the United States.

To remove the reproach thus thoughtlessly attached to the annals of our State, it is only necessary to bring to light the true character of its early colonists, whose father-land ranked at that period among the foremost nations of Europe in point of commercial wealth and enterprise, and before all others in the freedom of its government; a freedom purchased by forty years' struggle against the blood-thirsty myrmidons of Spanish despotism. The traits ascribed by the mock historian to the first settlers of New-York, can scarcely be supposed to have characterized such a people; on the other hand, the manly virtues they displayed amidst the toils and hardships of colonial life, removed at so great a distance from the scenes of their early associations, deserve a very different commemoration at the hands of their descendants and successors.

The New-York Historical Society—an institution that has done much to preserve the historical records of our State—first suggested to the Legislature the propriety of searching the archives of the Netherlands, and other European Governments, for documents illustrative of the early history of the State. In compliance with a memorial from that institution, the Legislature passed the act of May 2d, 1839, authorizing the Governor and Senate "to appoint an agent to visit England, Holland and France, for the purpose of procuring copies of all such documents and papers, in the archives and offices of those governments, relating to, or in any way affecting the colonial history of this State." The sum of four thousand dollars was at the same time appropriated to carry out the objects of the agency, which, by two subsequent appropriations, was increased to twelve thousand dollars. On the 15th of January, 1841, nearly two years after the passage of the law, John Romeyn Brodhead, of the county of Ulster, was appointed to this agency, and embarked for England on the first of May following, for the purpose of entering upon the duties of his mission. A copy of his instructions, from the Executive of the State, is annexed to this report.

In pursuance of these instructions, Mr. Brodhead, on his arrival in London, applied to the British Government for permission to make transcripts of such documents in its archives as related to our colonial history. The application appears to have been coldly received by Lord Palmerston, then principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, notwithstanding the kind offices rendered to the agent by Mr.

Stevenson, minister from the United States near that Government; and, without losing time, Mr. Brodhead proceeded at once to Holland, where a very different reception awaited him. Repairing to the Hague, he was presented to the King by the Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, the American ministerto the Netherlands; and it was soon found that His Majesty took a lively interest in the objects of the mission, and was disposed to grant every possible facility to aid the researches of the agent. It seems to have been regarded in that country as a gratifying circumstance, that the descendants of Dutch ancestors who had left the father-land two centuries ago, should so far cherish the remembrance of their ancient lineage, as to despatch one of their number across the wide ocean to seek memorials of the olden time; and a warm feeling of kindness was extended by all classes towards the agent, and liberal arrangements were made to lighten and facilitate his labors.

The results of Mr. Brodhead's researches in Holland are sixteen-volumes of transcripts in the Dutch language, an analysis of which is contained in his printed calendar. It will be observed that these documents comprise a great variety of details relative to the original discovery and settlement of our State; commencing with notices of the first navigators who explored the North and East rivers, and embracing copies of the decrees of the States-General, granting the privileges of trade and further discovery to companies of merchants, which led to the subsequent colonization by patroons or patentees of lands.* One of these grants, bearing date October 11th, 1614, is accompanied by a descriptive map of the North river and the adjacent country, executed within five years after the discovery by Hudson. It only remains that the seal of a foreign language should be taken off from these valuable and curious records, to render them accessible to all; and to this end the committee would recommend that a suitable person be employed to translate them at the public expense.

Among these documents the committee would particularly notice one, that possesses peculiar interest in its relation to the Dutch colony on the island of Manhattan. The precise year in which that colony was planted is not known; the oldest records in possession of the State, before the receipt of these documents, commence with the administration of Governor Kieft, in the year 1638, with the single ex-

*See appendix (B.) for a copy of one of these early grants.

ception of some grants of land which go back to 1630. But there was found a few years ago among the papers of Governor Bradford, of the Plymouth colony, a correspondence between that functionary and the Dutch authorities of New-Netherlands, on the island of Manhattan, bearing date in the year 1627; and Bradford, in a letter written at that time, says of the Dutch, "that for strength of men and fortifications they far exceed them and all others in the country." Until the reception of these fruits of the agency, we were thus indebted to another colony for the first notice of the colonization of our own State. It is true, a few trading-houses had been established, and forts erected, both on Manhattan island and at Albany, several years before; but no accounts of a regular settlement of the country by families from Holland at that early date have reached us.*

The document alluded to, although brief, enables us to show the existence of the colony still earlier than the correspondence with Governor Bradford. The attention of the Legislature has already been called to it, in a report made to this body during the last session, but for a very different purpose, and in an incomplete and inaccurate translation; it is therefore reproduced here. It is a letter written from Amsterdam by Mr. Schagen, the Deputy of the States-General at the meeting of the West India Company, to the Dutch Government at the Hague, announcing the arrival at Amsterdam of a ship from New-Netherland, with advices from the Dutch colonists on the island of Manhattan; bearing date November 5th, 1626. The following is a translation of this document:

To the High and Mighty Lords of the States-General at the Hague:

My Lords,—There arrived here yesterday the ship called the 'Arms of Amsterdam,' which sailed from the river Mauritius, [the Hudson,] in New-Netherland, on the 23d of September. Report is brought that our people there are diligent, and live peaceably; their wives have also borne them children. They have purchased the island of Manhattes from the Indians for the sum of sixty

* Argal found a few huts on Manhattan island in 1613. But it appears from a document, a copy of which will be found in the Appendix to this Report, that the English Nonconformists who had fled to Holland, and were residing at Leyden, desired permission to remove to "New-Netherland," and colonize the country, in the early part of 1620. Their request was denied. It may fairly be inferred from the contents of this petition that no Dutch colony had been formed at that time; but there is no doubt of its having been formed within two or three years after that date.

guilders;* it contains 11,000 morgens† of land. They have sown all kinds of grain in the middle of May, and reaped in the middle of August. I send you small samples of the summer grains, as wheat, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, canary seed, beans and flax.

"The cargo of the ship consists of 7,246 beaver skins,
178½ otter "
675 " "
48 mink "
36 cat-lynx "
33 mink "
34 small rat "

together with a considerable quantity of oak timber and nut-wood.

"Commending your High and Mighty Lordships to the favor of the Almighty,

I am your High Mightinesses' humble servant,

P. SCHAGEN."

"*At Amsterdam, Nov. 5th, anno* 1626."

The historical value and interesting character of this document, cannot fail to strike any one who is capable of appreciating the first efforts to introduce the arts of civilized life into a new and widely extended domain, which has since grown from these small beginnings into a large and flourishing commonwealth, excelling in population and resources some of the monarchies of the old world.

Some doubt has hitherto existed in regard to the name of the director general or governor of the colony prior to the year 1633; and although it was generally supposed that the office was then held by PETER MINUIT, yet no official act of that person as chief magistrate was among our records. The fact is now established by the discovery of an original grant of lands, signed by Peter Minuit and his council, dated at Fort Amsterdam, July 15th, 1630. The original parchment containing this grant was procured by Mr. Brodhead, and is now deposited in the Secretary of State's office. It is the only official act now extant of the first governor of the colony.

It is not, however, the intention of the committee, in this report, to pursue the analysis of the documents procured by Mr. Brodhead from

* About twenty-four dollars. † A MORGEN is nearly two acres.

the different archives to which he had access. The calendars printed with his report are sufficient for this purpose, and exhibit with great clearness the variety and richness of *materiel* comprised in the collection.

The committee will only add, that Mr Brodhead, having finished his labors in Holland, returned to London in December, 1841, where in the meantime a change of ministry had taken place,—Lord Palmerston having been succeeded by Lord Aberdeen, in the office of Foreign Secretary. A more friendly policy towards the objects of the agency was now manifested, and with the valuable aid of the new American minister, Mr. Everett, the preliminary difficulties were removed, and Mr. Brodhead entered upon the labors of his mission; not, however, without encountering many precautions of the government that contributed to embarrass these labors, and add to the trouble and expense attending them. It will be observed in the report of Mr. Brodhead, that he did not confine his researches in England to the archives of state, but extended them to the magnificent collections of manuscripts contained in the British Museum, as well as other repositories in London and its vicinity.

In the summer of 1842, Mr. Brodhead proceeded to Paris, where the active kindness of General Cass, the American minister, procured him all desirable facilities. The seventeen volumes of transcripts obtained in the Freneh capital, commence with the year 1631, and extend to 1763. They are beautifully engrossed, and will be consulted with great interest by every student of American history, especially in relation to the border wars that led to the final reduction of Canada, and the extinction of French power on this Continent.

Having completed his researches in Paris, Mr. Brodhead returned to England, and on the 7th of July, 1844, embarked for New-York, where he arrived early in the following month. Immediately after his arrival, he reported himself to Governor Bouck, and made known to him the general results of his mission. From that time until the date of his final report, the 12th of February last, he was employed at the city of New-York, in arranging the documents in chronological order, framing indexes, and preparing his report. The documents were at the same time bound up in eighty distinct volumes, viz: Sixteen volumes of Holland documents, seventeen volumes of Paris documents, and forty-seven volumes of London documents,—the latter coming down to the year 1782.

Should it be supposed that no practical utility will be derived to the State from the possession of these documents, it may be stated that important references have already been made to them in the course of legislation, during the present session of the Legislature. The following extract from the report of a committee of the Assembly, in relation to lands granted by the State for military services, shows their value in this respect :

" The committee also, in the spirit of the rule of rendering justice to whom justice is due, feel constrained to acknowledge the important aid they have received in this investigation and search for the musty records of olden time, to the report and documents of J. Romeyn Brodhead, agent to procure and transcribe documents in Europe, relative to the colonial history of this State. Important papers and references relating even to this claim, have been brought to light by his researches, and exhibit the importance of the objects and execution of his trust."—*Report of Mr. Boughton, &c., April* 21, 1845.

The committee cannot better close this account of the fruits of this interesting mission, than by quoting a few passages from a private letter addressed to the agent, by the Hon. George Bancroft, the American historian. After having consulted the collection, with reference to the period embraced in the forthcoming volumes of his History of the United States, Mr. Bancroft remarks as follows :

" Your papers I examined very carefully, from 1748 to the close of the series, and was deeply impressed with a sense of their importance. There is nothing in print like the minute and exact reports made by the French officers in Canada, of their operations on our frontier, during their long struggle for the preservation of Canada. Your papers surround Montcalm with all the interest of a hero of romance ; and trace his overthrow, clearly, to distinct and inexorable causes.

" For the following period, your collections were, also, most interesting, and were absolutely necessary to the complete understanding of the politics of New-York, during the years before the Revolution. The less numerous papers in the years of the Revolution, contain some of the most curious and surprising character."

In regard to the expenses of the mission, it appears from the account rendered by the Comptroller, that there has been paid to the agent, from the State treasury, the sum of $12,000, being the amount appropriated by the Legislature to defray the expenses of the agency, at three several periods; to wit: On the 2d of May, 1839, $4,000; on the 11th of April, 1842, $3,000; and on the 13th of April, 1843, $5,000. By the Comptroller's books, it appears that Mr. Brodhead has furnished accounts and vouchers for $12,014.23, including his compensation to July 7th, 1844, leaving a balance in his favor, to that date, of $14.23.

It appears from an abstract of the agent's accounts, that the Holland documents, exclusive of binding, cost..... $703 13
The Paris documents,..... 904 80
The London do.,..... 4,078 01

$5,685 94

Salary of the agent two years, eleven months, and ten days, at $2,000 per annum,..... $5,888 87
Travelling expenses,..... 439 42

$12,014 23

It also appears from the account, that there remains due to the agent the sum of $1,390.98, including salary, expenses of binding the documents, &c., from the 14th of August, 1844, to the 12th of February last. The committee have examined this account, with the vouchers, and recommend that it be paid; and ask leave to introduce the accompanying bill.

APPENDIX.

(A.)

Instructions to the Agent.

STATE OF NEW-YORK,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
Albany, March 27th, 1841.

To JOHN ROMEYN BRODHEAD, Esquire :

The Legislature of this State having on the 2d day of May, 1839, passed an act for the appointment of an agent to visit England, Holland and France, for the purpose of procuring the originals or copies of such documents and papers in the archives of those governments relating to the colonial and other history of this State, as are important to illustrate that history ; and you having been duly appointed such agent, and being about to proceed in the execution of your duties, it seems to be proper that I should communicate to you the views entertained by the Executive in relation thereto.

This communication is to be regarded as advisory only. The language of the act is quite indefinite, and was undoubtedly designedly made so, in order to leave the agent at liberty to exercise a sound and wise discretion according to the circumstances affecting the object of his mission. In recommending those objects to the Legislature, I observed that their successful accomplishment would advance the cause of free government throughout the world, and that it was due to ourselves and to the memory of our predecessors, and to a just regard for the respect of posterity, that every important circumstance connected with the rise and progress of our free institutions should be recorded and illustrated.

The general policy of the European governments towards their transatlantic possessions has been heretofore studied by us chiefly in the acts of their agents here, while its comparative unimportance in the domestic history of those States has caused it to be often over-

looked or superficially treated by European historians. It is represented to us that there are now in the archives and public offices of Holland and England, many papers relating to the events and persons prominent in our local history anterior to and through the revolution. Among such papers may be expected to be found reports, advices, and other communications from the colonial governors, military commanders, the early colonists, and other individuals resident here.

The policy of France, in establishing her military positions upon this continent, is regarded among the most important and interesting particulars of our history ; and her long struggle to retain those positions exercised a great influence for a long period upon the condition, disposition and purposes of the people of New-York. It is, I presume, chiefly with a view to obtaining authentic evidence concerning this part of our history, that you are expected to visit that country.

It would be highly interesting to obtain the originals or copies of the instructions forwarded to the French and English Governors of Canada ; to learn the views which possessed them, of a commercial, military, or colonizing character ; their expectations of the future growth of their settlements bordering upon the colony of New-York ; their expenditures and receipts ; the nature and extent of their alliances with the Indian tribes ; and the history of their expeditions across the St. Lawrence, and of their posts upon Lake Ontario and the River Niagara, so far as developed by official reports, or memorials from the foreign departments under whose administration these various operations took place.

It will be equally important to obtain in England the copies of those papers relating to the occupation of the colony, which are said to have been removed to the mother country, together with such official documents, memoirs, and statistical details as were doubtless communicated from time to time to the British Government by its agents here. Among these transactions, the conduct of Sir William Johnson, his agency with the Indians, his communications to his Government, and his views as to the extension of the British power, would be particularly valuable. The expedition of Colonel Nichols has never yet been known to us in all its details. The capture of the city of Albany under his orders, has found as yet but a few lines on the pages of the historian.

The Dutch records have furnished us with a vast amount of information relating to the colony while in subordination to the West India Company, but the official reports of Governors Van Twiller, Stuyvesant, Kieft, &c. to the father-land, and the documents which must necessarily have been communicated from time to time by those zealous agents, are yet to become a part of the materials of our history.

Many details in relation to the patents, manorial rights, &c., and much information relating to the Indian trade, will no doubt be gleaned from the archives which may become accessible.

All these, as far as the appropriation will permit, after defraying your necessary expenses, and the private charges which will attend

you in your various journeys, will become matter of interest to you in your general investigations.

You are advised to proceed first to Holland, to ascertain what documents and papers require your attention there; then to proceed to England, and institute a similar examination there. Having thus ascertained what will be most important in those countries, you will proceed to solicit the originals, or cause transcripts to be made, as circumstances shall indicate. While this is going forward in those countries, you will have leisure to proceed to Paris, in performance of your duties at that capital.

You will from time to time report to the Executive of this State, and will be at liberty at all times to seek advice from him in regard to the discharge of the duties of your mission. You will ship to the address of the Secretary of State any books or parcels you deem it important to be sent to this country.

You will be allowed at the rate of two thousand dollars per annum, payable quarterly, for your compensation, besides your travelling expenses and disbursements for the purposes of your mission. You have already received an advance of fifteen hundred dollars. On rendering accounts for one thousand dollars of that sum, you may draw upon the Comptroller for another sum of one thousand dollars in advance in like manner, and so on, accounting and drawing the extent of the amount appropriated in the bill.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed, this twenty-seventh day of March, [L. S.] in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, and of the independence of the United States of America, the sixty-fifth.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

(B.)

Grant from the States General, Oct. 11th, 1614.

THE STATES GENERAL OF THE UNITED NETHERLANDS, to whom these presents shall come, make known; WHEREAS, Gerrit Jacobsen Witsen, formerly Burgomaster of the city of Amsterdam, Jonas Witsen, and Simon Monissen, owners of the ship named the *Fox*, whose Captain is John De With; Hans Hongers, Paulus Pelgrom, and Lambrecht Van Tweenhuysen, owners of the two ships named the *Tiger* and the *Fortune*, whose Captains are Adriaen Block and Hendrick Corstiansen; Arnold Van Leybergen, Wessel Schenck, Hans Claessen, and Barent Sweertsen, owners of the ship named the *Nightengale*, whose Captain is Thys Volkertsen, merchants of the aforesaid City of Amsterdam; and Peter Clementsen Brower, Jan Clementsen Kies, and Cornelis Volkertsen, merchants of the city of Hoorn, owners of the ship named the *Fortune*, whose captain is Cornelis Jacobsen May,—all now united together in one Company,—have reverently represented to us, that they, the memorialists, at heavy expense and great damage to themselves, from the loss of ships and other great risks, have, this present current year, with the aforesaid five ships, discovered and found certain new lands lying in America, between New France and Virginia, being the sea-coasts thereof, situated in the latitude of from 40 to 45 degrees, now named *New-Netherland*, and praying, [that whereas we, in the month of March last, for the encouragement and increasing of commerce, had published a certain general ordinance and grant to the effect that all those who from that time forward should discover any new passages, havens, lands, or places, should have the exclusive right of making four voyages thither, and that no other persons, directly or indirectly, should sail from the United Netherlands, to the said newly discovered passages, havens, lands or places, or frequent the same, until the first discoverer had himself made the four voyages within the time limited therefor, under penalty of the forfeitures in the aforesaid ordinance expressed, &c. &c.,] that we should grant them a proper act to be passed in form, and in pursuance of the said ordinance; Which being considered, and having heard, in our meeting, the pertinent report of the memorialists, concerning the discovery of the aforesaid new lands, within the aforesaid limits and latitudes, and of their adventures; we have authorized and allowed the said memorialists, (at present united together in one Company,) and do hereby authorize and allow the same, exclusively, to navigate to the said newly discovered lands lying in America, between New France and Virginia, the coast of which is situated in the latitude of from 40 to 45 degrees, now called New Netherland, [as is to be seen by the "figurative map hereto annexed,*]

*A fac-simile of this map is in the office of the Secretary of State, at Albany.

for four voyages within the period of three years, commencing the first day of January, 1615, next ensuing, or sooner; without that any other persons, directly or indirectly, shall be at liberty, out of these United Netherlands, to sail to, navigate to, or frequent the said newly discovered lands, havens, or places, within the said period of three years, under pain of confiscation of the ships and cargoes wherewith the same shall be attempted, contrary to this decree, and of a fine of 50,000 Netherland ducats, to the benefit of the aforesaid discoverers, &c.: Provided, nevertheless, that we are not to be understood, by these presents, as doing any prejudice to, or in any way curtailing our former grants and concessions; and that our meaning further is, that in case any disagreements or differences should happen to arise or grow out of this our grant, that the same shall be decided by ourselves. Ordering and commanding, for this purpose, most expressly, all Governors, Justices, Officers, Magistrates and Inhabitants of the aforesaid United Lands, to let the aforesaid company, quietly and peaceably, use and enjoy the full effect of this our grant and concession, refraining from all opposition and hindrance to the contrary; inasmuch as we consider the same to be for the service and benefit of the country. Given under our seal, and the attestation of our clerk, at the Hague, the 11th day of October, 1614.

[Translated from the original, in the "*Holland Documents,*" in the Secretary's office, Albany, volume 1, page 47.]

(C.)

Memorial in behalf of the Rev. Mr. Robinson and his English Congregation at Leyden, who afterwards formed the Plymouth Colony in New-England.

12th February, 1620.

To the Prince of Orange, &c.

Respectfully make known the Directors of the Company trading to New Netherland, situated between New France and Virginia, in the latitude of from 40 to 45 degrees, that they, the memorialists, by virtue of a certain general grant of the High Mighty Lords the States-General, dated the 10th (27) March, 1614, as the discoverers and first finders of the said lands, have now made voyages thither for some years, and have also delivered to their High Mightinesses their written Report, with a map of the situation and usefulness of the said lands. And as the memorialsts' grant has expired, so that, now, any one is free to trade there, they have, for the purpose of keeping the said trade in reputation, hitherto sent two ships thither, and some ships have also been sent by other merchants, not belonging to their Company. It now happens that there is residing at Leyden a certain English preacher, (Minister of the Gospel,) but who is well

versed in the Dutch language, and who is inclined to go there to live; assuring your memorialists that he knows that (the means how) over four hundred (400) families would go with him there, as well from this country as from England, provided that by the authority, and under the protection of Your Princely Excellency, and the High Mighty Lords the States-General, they may be defended and preserved from the attacks of other powers; for the purpose of planting there the true and pure Christian Religion, and converting the savages of those countries to the true knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith; and also, through the grace of the Lord, and to the glory of the Government of this country, to colonize and establish a new Empire there, under the order and command of Your Princely Excellency, and the High Mighty Lords States General. And your memorialists have also found by experience, that His Majesty of Great Britain is disposed to colonize the aforesaid lands with English subjects, and with violence to make fruitless your memorialists' discoveries and possession, and also to deprive the Government of this country of their rights; and probably the ships of this country which are now there, and which are ordered to remain there for the whole of this year, may be easily surprised by the English. Your memorialists therefore request and pray, that your Princely Excellency would be graciously pleased to take the foregoing matters into your favorable consideration, so that, for the preservation of the rights of this country, the aforementioned preacher and 400 families may be taken under the protection of this country, and that, provisionally, two ships of war may be sent to secure the aforesaid lands to this Government, since the said lands may be of great importance, whenever the West India Company shall be erected, having regard to the great quantity of wood proper for ship building, as well as other purposes, as is to be seen by the accompanying report.

Upon all which, &c. &c.

[Translated from the original, in the "*Holland Documents*," in the Secretary's office, Albany, volume 1, page 95. It appears from another document in this collection that the prayer of this memorial was refused.—*Holland Documents*, vol. 1, p. 103.]